

MISSOURI ASSESSMENT PROGRAM

Communication Arts Practice Test

Grade 3 – Fiction

Student's Name _____
(please print first name and last name)

Teacher's Name _____
(please print first name and last name)

School District _____

Building/Room _____

Date _____

Do not open test booklet until instructed to do so.

The Laundromat

By Wilma G. Rowe

When our washing machine quit working, Mama piled all our dirty clothes in the car, and we went to the laundromat. I held our big box of soap so it wouldn't spill.

At the laundromat, I saw a machine where you can put money in, and a little box of soap comes out. But Mama said it costs more that way. That's why we brought our own.

Mama dumped all our clothes on a table between the rows of machines. I helped her sort them into three piles. Dark colors, light colors, and in-betweens. It was like a game. We put each pile in a washer, with a cup of soap.

Next we had to get quarters—lots of quarters. Mama put a dollar bill in the change machine. The machine grabbed that dollar and spat out four quarters with a clatter. Mama did that two more times, because we needed three washers for our three piles of clothes.

Then Mama let me put the quarters in special holes in the washing machines. The money made the washers start to fill with water.

Our clothes tumbled around, sloshing in the suds. I watched them through the round windows in the fronts of the washers.

Two girls were playing with hula hoops. They let me try, but I couldn't wiggle wide enough. The hoop fell down around my feet.

I said, "Thank you, but I'll have to get a hula hoop of my own so I can practice."

The Laundromat

The laundromat has so many machines! There's even one that sells soda. Mama gave me two quarters, and I bought a can of grape soda and shared it with her.

After a while, the washers stopped, all three almost at the same time. I helped Mama take our wet clothes out of them.

We needed more quarters from the change machine. This time Mama let me put the dollars in. I had to get George Washington's face just right, or the dollar came right back out, and the machine didn't give any quarters.

Mama let me push the cart with the clothes to a big, round door in the wall. We piled the wet clothes inside. Then she lifted me up, and I put a quarter in the slot of the dryer.

I saw my overalls and Mama's purple shorts and Joey's Tigger shirt going up and down, round and round. Blue and red, purple and green, like my kaleidoscope.

A big man with white hair used a key to open all the little boxes on the washing machines and the dryers. He emptied piles of quarters into bags—hundreds and hundreds of quarters! Then he opened the change machine and took out a stack of dollar bills. He went away with all that money! Mama said it was all right, because that was his job. She said maybe he owned the laundromat.

When the dryer stopped, our clothes fell *plop!* to the bottom. Mama opened the round door and took the clothes out. She let me fold the T-shirts. They felt warm and cozy on my arms.

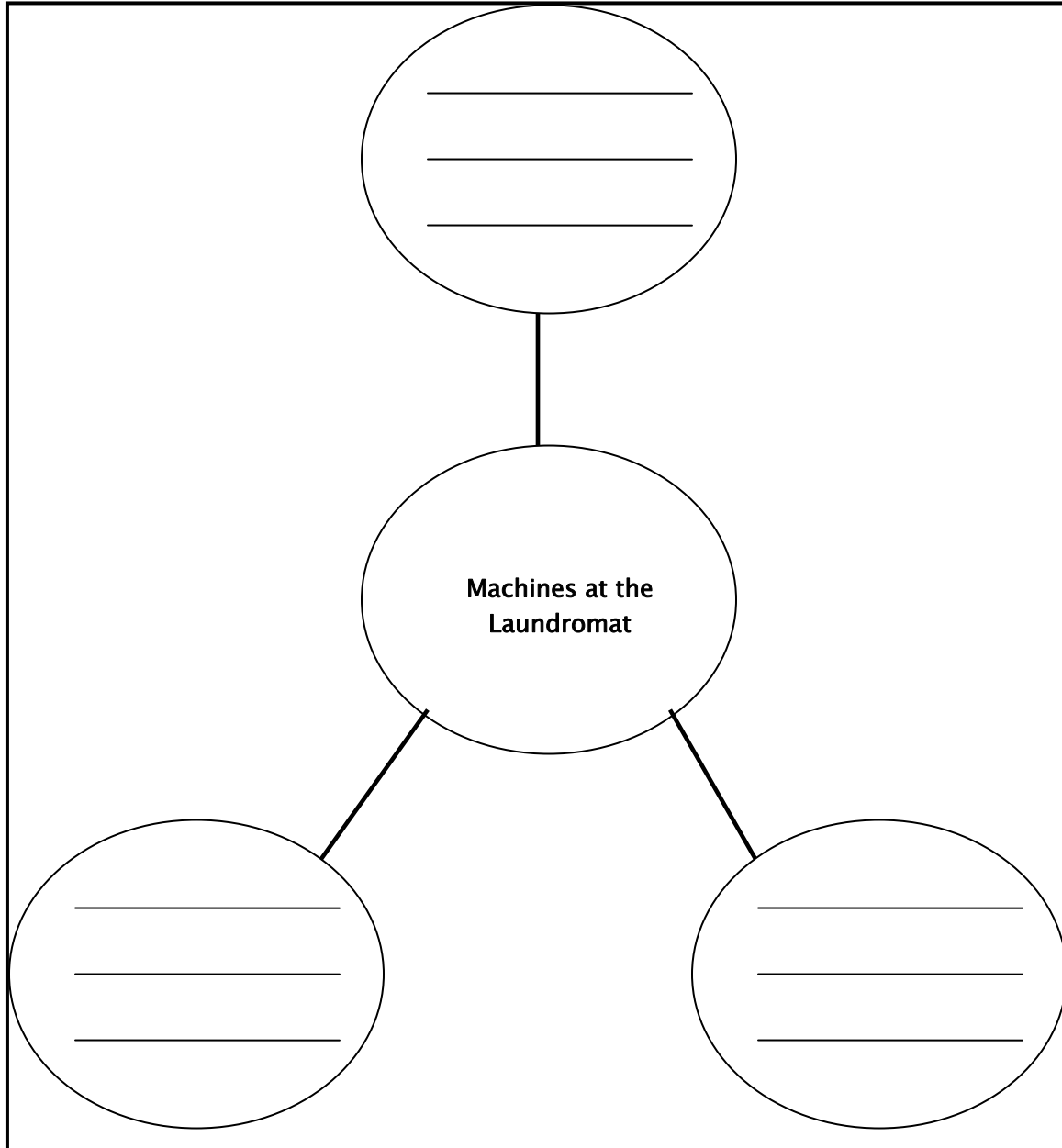
The Laundromat

We piled the folded clothes in our basket, and Mama carried it to the car. I brought our soap, because the big box was still half full.

I hope the repairman won't come to fix our washing machine too soon. I want to go to the laundromat again.

The Laundromat

1. Write the names of **three** different types of machines found at the laundromat to complete the web.



The Laundromat

Circle the letter of the correct answer for questions 6 and 7.

6. Why did the big man with white hair in the story take all the money from the machines?
- A. He takes the money as part of his job.
 - B. He was a thief.
 - C. He needed money for food.
 - D. He needed money to wash his clothes.
7. What is the main idea of this story?
- A. Practicing with a hula hoop leads to improved skills.
 - B. Going to the laundromat can be fun.
 - C. Repairing a washing machine is difficult.
 - D. Washing clothes at a Laundromat is faster than at home.

